

fact sheet

public access: joint-use agreement for the San Pedro ponds trails

A new joint-use agreement between the City of Morgan Hill and the Santa Clara Valley Water District provides a dual-use pristine trail area for nature lovers, walkers and joggers to use for their recreation. The 29-acre parcel is currently used solely for groundwater recharge (also known as a percolation pond). Now, with the encouragement of the local community, these public lands will be opened for public recreation. Check the upcoming issue of Morgan Hill's "City Visions" for the exact opening date.

The San Pedro Groundwater Recharge Ponds are located at the intersection of Hill Road and San Pedro Avenue in Morgan Hill. The primary purpose of the ponds will not change, but these public lands will be opened up for trails use. The San Pedro ponds help to recharge the Uvas/Llagas sub-basin that supplies 100 percent of the water to Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy.

The San Pedro ponds consist of seven recharge ponds that average about 15 feet in depth. The banks of the ponds are steep. For public safety, the trails around the ponds will be fenced. Pedestrians are to stay within the

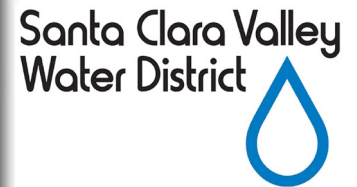


A photo of one of the seven San Pedro ponds
fenced trails. Public access to the ponds is prohibited. The newly accessible trails at this facility will allow the public to view migrating birds that find refuge at the ponds.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will maintain the groundwater recharge capabilities of the ponds. The ponds will require occasional maintenance to ensure optimal recharge to the underground water basin. The City of Morgan Hill will maintain the trails free of trash by periodic pick-up assisted by volunteer efforts.



Artist's rendition of the trail areas and access points for the new San Pedro Trails area



An aerial view of the San Pedro ponds

what is groundwater recharge?

The San Pedro Groundwater Recharge Ponds are one of a series of groundwater recharge ponds (or percolation ponds) in the south valley.

Far beneath the valley floor, lies a thick rocky layer of soil that can store vast amounts of water. Imported water from sources at the Sacramento – San Joaquin River Delta and our captured local rainwater is percolated down to the deep aquifer to give us a renewable source of supply.

The underground reservoir (the Uvas - Llagas sub-basin) is the single source of water for this part of the county. Water is stored in the underground aquifer and is pumped by municipalities or water retailers who supply the households of this community.

The water within the San Pedro Groundwater Recharge Ponds originates from the melting snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. Water from the melting snow flows to the Sacramento River Delta where it is pumped by the federal water project to San Luis Reservoir on Highway 152 near Pacheco Pass. The San Felipe Pipeline through the mountains brings the water to the Santa Clara Valley and to these recharge ponds.

for more information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Joint-Use Agreement that created this trails opportunity project, please contact water district project manager, **Marc Lucca** at **(408) 265-2607, ext. 2984**, or City of Morgan Hill Public Works Administrator **Mori Struve** at **(408) 776-7337, ext. 247**.

for volunteers & sponsorship

Volunteers are needed to keep the San Pedro ponds trails clean, safe and enjoyable. Sponsors are also being sought to assist the neighborhood with improvements to the trails area.

To volunteer as a park helper or to help underwrite the cost of a tree or park bench (to be placed by the City of Morgan Hill) in the San Pedro ponds trails area, just contact:

Dr. Jon Hatakeyama
370 W. Dunne Ave. Ste. #3
Morgan Hill, CA. 95037

Tel: (408) 779-7391

or, info@smilefiles.com